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# (12) United States Patent Shigeta et al.

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#### (54) DRIVE UNIT AND DRIVE MODULE

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# (57) ABSTRACT

A drive unit includes a speed reducer that includes a plurality of gears having helical teeth and rotatably supported by bearings, and transfers rotation of a drive motor to rear drive wheels of a vehicle. The maximum value of torque to be generated by the drive motor during rearward travel of the vehicle is set to be lower than that during forward travel. Under such a precondition, the size of a bearing that receives a load during rearward travel, among the bearings which constitute the speed reducer, is smaller than the size of a bearing that receives a load during forward travel.

#### 3 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

